

Chief Herriott-Sullivan's Brief



A Message to the Rochester community from Chief Herriott-Sullivan

Many cities across the northeast are seeing a rise in violence, a troubling trend that must be stopped in its tracks. On March 25th, I held a press conference on the current violence streak we've seen here at home, within the City of Rochester. I want the community to know that violence, of any kind, is unacceptable. As Chief, I am wholeheartedly dedicated to reducing, and ultimately eliminating violent crime in Rochester, and have already begun to take direct action.

We will be adding foot and bike patrols to target locations based upon real-time data and analytics. We are also increasing our anti-violence (GIVE) details in the areas that have historically seen the highest quantities of violent crime. I have additionally tasked section captains with developing individual anti-violence strategies for their specific sections of the City, as each must be supported based on its unique needs. We've met with numerous community groups and faith-based groups to identify these needs and how the community can assist with this effort. In the coming weeks and months, I'll release this information via this Brief as ideas turn to action plans.

Lastly, I want to reinforce that the entire police department will continue doing everything within our power to protect the citizens of Rochester and want to work collaboratively with you to identify meaningful solutions. Should you have feedback or ideas to share with us, please connect with us at RPD.Chief@CityofRochester.gov.

- Cynthia Herriott-Sullivan, Chief of Police
Rochester Police Department

Recently Completed Actions

Policy Review and Changes

I have personally overseen the thorough review of and thoughtful changes to several key RPD policies. Within the last few weeks, we've rolled out four policy updates to Officers including Duty to Intervene, Chokeholds, Mental Hygiene Detention, and De-escalation. These updates were publicly announced on March 15, 2021 and March 30, 2021.

Progress on Key Initiatives:

Our goal is to continuously improve the Department's relationship with the Rochester community and restore trust. This effort requires our entire department to look within and address our culture and accountability through trainings, policy, and procedural updates. Since my last update we have made progress on the following initiatives:

- We continue to meet with community members and stakeholders to solicit advice and ideas on how to better serve our community.
- We've released four policy changes that will help our department move forward and remain in the forefront of progressive policing. Additional policy updates are underway and are slated to be announced in the coming weeks.

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Officer Highlight

On March 19th, 2021 Officer Walsh was working his regular midnight shift when a call came in for a possible suicidal male in the downtown area. Upon arrival to the area, Officer Walsh found a deceased male who had apparently just committed suicide by jumping off a parking garage. At the same time, Officer Walsh found an unresponsive infant who had been in the male's arms when he jumped to his death from a parking garage.

At first, the infant didn't appear to be breathing. After a few seconds Officer Walsh started life-saving measures when he observed shallow breathing from the infant. Officer Walsh immediately called for an ambulance and began CPR on the child. Officer Walsh continued to relay the condition of the infant over the radio and was eventually able to flag down an ambulance to transport the child to the hospital. From the initial moment Officer Walsh found the unresponsive infant until the ambulance crew took over, Officer Walsh performed life-saving measures on the infant and without a doubt saved the child's life.

I'm pleased to say the child appears on his way to a full recovery, albeit a long road. Acts such as these happen within our RPD family daily, and I look forward to highlighting different officers through this brief regularly. Officer Walsh is a prime example of what the RPD stands for, protecting our citizens and saving lives.

Ways to Connect with Us:

We encourage our community to share with us what information would be most important to them. Please connect with us at CAB@CityofRochester.Gov to share your thoughts.

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